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Scientists prefer to stay abroad

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Despite efforts to lure Indian scientists and technologists working abroad to return, more and more of them prefer to stay abroad.

This fact has been revealed in a study on Indian scientists and technologists abroad and their pattern of return made recently by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

According to the Scientific and Technical Personnel division of the CSIR, "There has been an unmistakable decline in the number of Indians abroad registrants reporting return."

According to the division, the average number of returns reported annually has come down from 215 during the second-half of the 1960s to 130 in the first-half of the 1970s in the case of scientists, from about 185 to 110 in the case of engineers, and from 180 to 60 in the case of doctors.

The total number of scientists engineers, technologists and medical personnel returning from abroad as indicated by Indian abroad section of the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel maintained by the CSIR declined from about 3,000 during the five years between 1960 and 1970 to about 1500 during the period 1971 to 1976.

During the period 1961 to 1965, the number of persons returned was 3,400.

Despite the decline in actual numbers, the return of scientists and technologists as a percentage of total registration has increased from 41 percent in 1961 to about 49 percent in 1976.

The number of registrants in the Indians abroad section of the national Register increased by over 15,000 from 4,379 at the beginning of 1961 to 20,436 at the beginning of 1976.

F.P. to be mass movement

Several steps are under way to make the Family Planning Movement in the country a mass movement. The Union Minister for Health and Family Planning, Dr. Karan Singh said that multi-purpose teams of workers were being constituted to impress upon the people that the program was essentially for their benefit. A door to door campaign was being undertaken to educate the people about the necessity of limiting the size of families.

Primary health centres, he said, were also being strengthened further to meet the objective.

Dr. Karan Singh said that already a number of steps had been taken under the National Population Policy announced about two months ago to help solve the population problem in the country.

He said family planning had nothing to do with religion. Even countries with predominantly Muslim population like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iran had undertaken these programs.

Tea good for heart

Calcutta, July 9 (Samachar): Indian doctors say that two cups of green tea a day may keep coronary thrombosis away.

Studies by cardiologists Sunil Sen and Basudeva Bhattacharjee of Calcutta Medical College have shown that green tea helps to bring down serum cholesterol level in blood and brightens the chance of recovery from coronary attacks.

India to build nuclear fuel reprocessing plants

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): India is building two fuel reprocessing plants (FRP) for recovering plutonium from power reactors, and is expanding the plant in Trombay which supplied the explosive material for the first nuclear test in May 1974.

Together the three plants will increase India's capacity to produce plutonium which will be the fuel for the breeder reactors to be constructed in the phase two of the power program.

The two FRPs under construction are at Tarapur, the site of an American-built power reactor near Bombay and at Kalapakkam near Madras where two Candu power reactors with a total capacity of 470 megawatt and a fast breeder test reactor are coming up.

According to a recent Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) document, the existing plutonium plant in Trombay will be modified and expanded "to recover the depleted uranium and valuable plutonium from the irradiated fuel."

The expansion has become necessary for handling the increased amount of irradiated fuel that would become available from a 100-mw research reactor being built at Trombay.

The DAE has proposed to build one more heavy water plant in addition to the four plants under various stages of construction at Baroda, Kota, Talcher and Tuticorin.

The DAE has undertaken a special scheme for "the development of a process for the production of uranium hexafluoride," the document said.

Uranium hexafluoride is the raw gas from which enriched uranium fuel for nuclear reactors is obtained by a "diffusion" process which separates the lighter uranium isotope which is used as a fuel, from the unwanted heavier uranium.

Ahmed returns from Iran

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar): President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Begum Abida Ahmed returned here after a five day state visit to Iran.

It was a "very pleasant and enjoyable" trip, Mr. Ahmed told reporters at Delhi airport.

He said the Shah of Iran had been full of praise for the progress India had made in agriculture and industry and in building up infrastructure for further developing science and technology.

"I found that the Shah was as determined as we are to work for lasting peace through bilateral cooperation and multilateral discussions.

"He and I agreed that the advanced countries should adopt a policy of give-and-take.

Lower sugar exports

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar): India may export less sugar during 1976 compared to the last year, according to Indian Sugar Industry Export Corporation Chairman Madhava Prasad.

The Prime Minister, Shrimathi Indira Gandhi and the Secretary General of the Communist Party of USSR, L.I.Brezhnev signing the Declaration on further development of friendship and cooperation between USSR and India at Kremlin in Moscow last month.

Opposition subdued, not vanquished

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Prime Minister Indira Gandhi says that under the emergency the Opposition has been subdued but warned it has not been vanquished.

In an interview to Samachar on the completion of one year of emergency Mrs. Gandhi said: "It (Opposition) reappears in different garbs and slogans, but the motive remains the same, that is, to create confusion in the country and divert people from their great tasks of economic development, removal of injustice and lessening of disparities."

Replying to a question about the political gains under the emergency, she said "Our gains are economic rather than political."

Mrs. Gandhi was reminded of her statement that discipline and efficiency during the early days of emergency were on the wane and was asked what steps she was taking to maintain the national spirit at the level to go ahead with the expanded 20-point program.

"The government's vigilance," she said, "must be matched by the people's vigilance."

Mrs. Gandhi was asked if she thought the nation could progress only under conditions of emergency or if she envisaged termination of emergency.

She replied: "Obviously emergency cannot continue for ever. At the same time, we have to ensure that conditions are created for a meaningful democracy which reaches all sections of our people."

Mrs. Gandhi said that dangers facing the country had not diminished. They were as real today as they were a year ago.

Recently somebody went to Europe and met an important person. He is a prominent member of the ruling party in his country. He openly said that they would do their best to humble India."

This prominent person had further said: "We can harm you and we will harm you."

Reverting to termination of emergency, Mrs. Gandhi said: "We know what the emergency has done. When you do a thing you must provide enough time for it to consolidate, otherwise all the good that has been achieved will suddenly be lost. We have to ensure that we do not lose the gains."

The Prime Minister, however, referred to many relaxations in emergency and pointedly referred to the release of a number of political leaders.

Asked whether the economic revolution during the year of emergency had brought forth any political gains, Mrs. Gandhi said "our gains are economic rather than political. The opposition has been subdued but not vanquished. It reappears in different garbs and slogans, . . . to create confusion in the country."

Replying to whether she considered the gains of emergency worth the hostility of a few at home and some abroad, Mrs. Gandhi said such people had been hostile even before emergency. "In their eyes, the government can never be right."

Commenting on opposition view that India could have achieved the gains now made even without declaring emergency, given administrators will to make good the promises made to the people, Mrs. Gandhi said slowness in fulfilling the promises was not due to lack of will "but causes beyond our control."

The Bangladesh crisis, the Indo-Pak war, natural calamities, all had caused a lot of burden on the government. "Even the world bank has appreciated the difficulties we faced and the success we have achieved," she said.

In a separate interview, Amrita Bazar Patrika editor Tushar Kanti Ghosh asked Mrs. Gandhi whether she felt that India's growing friendship with neighbours lessened external threat.

She said: External threat is of two kinds. One is the actual aggression, military aggression. If you ask me I would say that rationally and logically, there should be no such threat. But unfortunately everything is not rational and we know that a great deal of arms are being accumulated in our neighbourhood. So that threat always remains.

But today the greater threat is of subversion, of interference from outside and this is increasing subversion from within but encouraged from outside.

Q: I hope you will go on relying more and more on youth. When Sanjay came to Calcutta and met the Joint Chambers of Commerce, I told him he was doing well but he should not forget old people like us, that he should take our advice even if he may not accept it.

Ans: We have to take all groups with us. But if young people feel ignored, then their energies go into other avenues, like violence. In the past many of our young people had drifted to purely destructive paths. Naxalites and even others felt that what they were doing was more courageous. Some young people felt attracted to extremist religious groups.

Young people are in a majority in this country. Also, they are the people who will live to see the future that it built. The young are not keen to take advice from elders. But I agree with you that before making up their minds, they should consider all aspects of a problem and also profit from the experience of older people.

Q: You have often said, and you said again now, that our struggle is one of policy, of direction, of what sort of future we want for our country, what sort of society we want to live in. In the light of the work done in the past year, how do you visualise the next 12 months?

Ans. The next 12 months are not linked with just the last year but they are linked with whatever India has stood for from ages past as well as during the independence struggle. Mahatma Gandhi and my father and other leaders gave great thought to the future India. It was an India where the ordinary people would be materially better off. They did not think that poverty by itself makes a people more spiritual, so you cannot ask a man who is worried about food, clothing and basic necessities to think of higher things. But we do think that once a basic level is achieved, one which assures not just physical survival but mental and spiritual development, we should not get bogged down in the type of civilization that we see in the west, which is not satisfying even to them. We find that having more things or being more comfortable only creates restlessness, arouses new desires and people are quickly dissatisfied with them. In the process, the person is destroyed.

So we would like to stick to the basic values of Indian philosophy which tries to take you have all these. We do not want affluence nor do we want poverty. Poverty makes it more difficult to appreciate the higher values. Even in regard to religion, poverty makes people ask for specific things instead of thinking of religion as a path of self-development. So this is what we should like to do and try to do. But I am not sure whether in this world, India alone can achieve this.

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Bonn aid for India

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): West Germany will give India Rs. 132.13 crores (362 marks) of aid for 1976-77, the Finance Ministry announced.

It said the terms of the agreement, which was signed in Bonn June 24, amount to an 84 percent grant element, as defined by the United Nations.

Interestingly, the West German Embassy in its press note put the aid figure at Rs. 124 crores.

Both press notes agreed that the figure in German currency was 362 million marks, but they had used different exchange rates in converting the figure into rupees.

Apparently, in these days of floating exchange rates, the mark rose even while the West German press note was being drafted.

Phalke award for Ganguli

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Dhiren Ganguli, a pioneer of the Indian cinema, will receive the Dada Saheb Phalke Award for 1976.

The award carries a 'Swarna Kamal,' a shawl and Rs. 20,000 ($2,667) in cash.

A year of discipline, dedication and hard work

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): A year of emergency has etched a new profile of India, a distinct profile in discipline, dedication and hard work.

Agitations, demonstrations, "dharnas", "gheraos", assaults and gunfire had replaced academic pursuits in universities to symptomatise a sickness which was equally in evidence in the violence by highly-paid bank or insurance employee, factory worker, educated unemployed, even police and in confrontations between political parties.

A year of emergency has changed all this and more. A great calm has descended to silence polemics and bury and hand of violence that had ravaged the country's contours and even threatened it with fragmentation. Not a bullet has been fired by mobs, perhaps the first time since independence.

Never has India appeared more stable politically and viable economically, a nation-wide Samachar assessment of one year of emergency reveals.

Inter-state disputes that had defied solutions for decades and assumed the proportions of verbal, and even physical duels, have either been ironed out or are in the process of settlement.

The insurrectionists in Nagaland have accepted the country's Constitution and agreed to lay down their arms. The rebels in Mizoram have surrendered their arms.

Filibuster had turned Parliament and state legislatures into arenas of shadow boxing. Today the high domed chambers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha present, as do the state legislatures, a different look one of orderly conduct of business.

Discipline in politics is nowhere more effectively demonstrated than in Kerala where for the first time since independence a state government has survived its full term of five years and continues to stay in power.

Political consolidation was also in evidence in Sikkim where soon after the state became a constituent unit of India, its ruling Sikkim Congress merged itself into the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Agitations, demonstrations, "dharnas," "gheraos" and political assassinations have been put an end to as in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where normal life was disrupted by agitations. Political assassination had been used as a weapon in parts of the country as in Gujarat during the elections and in Allahabad. In Tamil Nadu there is great relief at the end to political interference and high-handedness of the DMK party functionaries who had held the countryside and the administration to ransom. No more sedition stalks the state.

In Maharashtra the police are not afraid to proceed against goondas who in the past had taken shelter of politicians. No more does sectarian violence pay as it had in Bombay.

A lethal weapon, wielded by some parties for political destabilisation, was communal conflict. In Karnataka, for example, 10 communal riots broke out on an average in a year. Perhaps as many or more clashes occurred in U.P. With the ban on some organisations, not a single clash has occurred anywhere in the country during the last one year.

A sense of security pervades the country.

Feudal lords of erstwhile princely Gwalior were no Robin Hoods, who robbed the rich to feed the poor. A law unto themselves they had become, but theirs too is a different story under the emergency now.

The blackmarketeers and hoarders have also felt the long arm of the law. In Orissa alone 556 cases were instituted against hoarders and blackmarketeers. In the raids conducted, essential commodities worth Rs. 25.11 lakhs, gold ornaments worth Rs. 62,000, and half a kg of primary gold were seized. Thirtyfive hoarders were held under MISA and 1556 others arrested and Chargesheeted.

Raids on economic offenders in Delhi were even more spectacular. As many as 16,250 searches and raids were conducted in the Union Territory and suppressed transactions worth Rs. 16 crores detected.

Only in wars have perhaps great institutions of learning, universities and colleges, been burnt down or razed to the ground. But in India vandals set ablaze Lucknow University in the peace of the night. Hostels of universities, including Gorakhpur and Bhopal, were arsenals and the peace of the campuses were pierced by the rattle of gunfire. Higher academic standards of renowned universities, like Allahabad, fell over the years as these were transformed from centres of learning to centres of intrigue and politicking.

Many universities, among them Calcutta University, could not conduct their examinations and if at all these were held they were months and even years behind schedule.

Now in the peace of the emergency, Calcutta University has completed examinations that were to have been held in 1974 and 1975.

The administration has not been wooden headed. Under the Prime Minister's 20-point program book banks have been opened and free banks have been opened and free textbooks provided to the poor and needy students. Rations have been made available to students in Hostels and their power tariffs reduced.

Punjab, pace-setter in many directions, is planning to give representation to students on university senates.

Factory workers are no ideologists. Theirs is a world of hand-mouthliving. When Ganpatilal of Bhopal got a loan, he felt that emergency was beneficial and must continue. Not many mandays are now lost. More money now flows into his house to meet their meagre needs.

Before June 26 last, the overall loss of mandays was 800,353 in the public sector and 724642 in the private sector.

Opium earns exchange

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar) India a prominent supplier of crude opium to most of the industrialised countries, exported about 760 tons in 1974-75 earning foreign exchange to the tune of Rs.175 million. With the improvement of unit value 490 tons fetched Rs.179 million in the first three quarter of 1975-76.

Benefits of arresting smugglers

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar): Smuggling activities in the country have been paralysed and all the major smuggling networks smashed leading to a number of economic benefits, says an official statement.

According to the statement, more than 2000 people have been detained under the conservation of foreign exchange and prevention of smuggling activities act (COFEPOSA) and property worth over Rs.1 crore to the absconding smuggling has been attached. Apart from the COFEPOSA detenus, about 4,500 smugglers have been prosecuted in various customs cases and about 1,500 are under trial.

The value of the contraband seized has been steadily decreasing despite the heavily stepped-up raids.

Poet supports emergency

Hyderabad, July 12(Samachar) Noted Poet, Harindranath Chattopadhyaya says the declaration of emergency last year was very time.

He could not imagine what might have happened to India but for the emergency, he said in an interview.

Mrs.Gandhi would outlive "the machinations of her enemies", he said. "If India wants to survive, Indira has got to live or else India, as far as I can percieve will go into the hands of reaction - that will stab the eye of our children, scoop out the flesh of progressive and establish India on the basis of a grave, a hallow grave where men and women would be huddled into a sleep where no awakening would dawn, putting God himself to sleep.

Another achievement in technology

Bombay, July 12 (Samachar): A set of two fuelling machine (FM) carriages - an intricate and complex piece of equipment for Canadian- type reactor has been manufactured in India for the first time.

Nuclear India, published by the Department of Atomic Energy, describes this as another step in the department's efforts to strengthen the nuclear technological infrastructure.

According to the bulletin, fuelling machines are vital for continuous operation of the reactors.

For economical operation of the reactor, the machines carry out "on power" refuelling and for optimum fuel utilisation, the reactivity in these reactors has to be sustained by planned daily shuffling of the fuel bundles in the channels of the core.

The spent fuel has also to be replaced after rated burn-up by fresh fuel while the reactor is in operation.

This calls for reliable, repeatable and, because of the extremeley high level of radiation in the fuelling machine vaults, fully remote controlled operation of the fuelling machine.

The FM carriages for the first unit of the Rajasthan atomic power station were imported from Canada at a cost of Rs.32 lakhs, about ($43,000). The present indigenous manufacture of the carriages for the second unit cost only Rs.13 lakhs (about 17,000).

Indo-Pak rail traffic

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar): India and Pakistan signed an agreement for resumption of rail traffic between Amritsar and Lahore.

Official sources said the passenger and freight service will be introduced by July 24. A daily expressed train service will run between the two stations, exclusively for international passengers.

The agreement was signed by R. Srinivasan, Joint Secretary in the Railways Ministry, for India and his Pakistani counterpart Sheikh Anwar Hussain.

"Holy tank" in New Delhi

New Delhi, July 11: A giant "holy tank" attached to a Gurdwara is coming up in New Delhi, and the manner in which it is being built would warm the hearts of Sikhs all the world over.

The tank is being next to Gurdwara Bangla Saheb on Baba Kharak Singh Rd, formerly Irwin Road, near Gole Dakkhane.

Every day, since June 6, about 5,000 Sikh men, women and children from Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan and even places as far away as Andhra and Maharashtra arrive at the site to offer free labour as their contribution to the building of the holy tank.

The volunteers get no payment. Their food and lodging are taken care of at holy langars.

A Muslim artisan has been imported from Jaipur to cut the stones. The tank walls will be all in marble.

The tank, to be named "Sarovar Sahib" tank, measuring 235 feet by 225 ft. and eight feet deep, the tank will become holy when it is connected up with a spot in the gurudwara premises, where the 8th Guru had dipped his feet.

Envoy leaves for Peking

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): India's Ambassador to China K. R. Narayanan left for Bangkok on his way to Peking to take up his assignment.

A representative of the Chinese Embassy in Delhi was present at the airport to see Mr. Narayanan off.

Mr. Narayanan is the first Indian Ambassador to be posted in Peking since India withdrew its ambassador from China in the early sixties.

He told reporters before his departure that he was very much looking forward to his assignment. Apart from the political significance of China, he said, he had his own interest in understanding the great developments taking place in that country.

Freedom of press to continue

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar): Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said that "we have no desire to take away" the freedom of the Press, which was a part of the democratic freedom.

She regretted that much was being made out of "my so-called onslaught" on the Press. Some of the restraints became necessary because many newspapers had "cast aside all sense of responsibility," she said.

"Their objective was not to inform but to incite," she added.

Mrs. Gandhi was speaking at a function in New Delhi to felicitate M. Chalapathi Rau on the occasion of his completing 30 years as editor of National Herald.

Mango to prevent cancer

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Mango can prevent cancer of the colon and several other diseases caused by lack of roughage in the diet, scientists, report.

According to an article in "Science Reporter," a study of over 20 fruits and vegetables indicates that mango contains the maximum roughage, or "fiber".

Lack of fibre is known to cause colon cancer, hernia, haemorrhoids, appendicitis, vericose vein, obesity, coronary heart disease and a number of other problems.

Colon cancer, for instance, ranks second after lung cancer in Americans, whose diet is almost nill in roughage.

The United States and the United Kingdom are among the largest buyers of mangoes from India.

Coconut shell helps 5,000

Calcutta, July 9 (Samachar): About 5,000 people in West Bengal have found a source of livelihood in coconut shell.

Through innovation and the ingenuity of the artisans the shell is being used to make images of gods and goddesses, mostly for export.

At home, ash trays, flower vases and radio cabinets made of coconut shell are becoming popular.

The new cottage industry helping women and destitutes in at least four districts in 24 Pragnas, Midnapore, Howrah and Hooghly — with jobs owes its origin to the efforts of the Shilpa Ashram, founded by a former freedom fighter, Yogajiban Bose.

As many as 16 centres are functioning in the four districts. "Produce out of the fibre and shell of three coconuts a day helps a family earn on an average Rs. 200 ($27) a month," says Mr. Bose.

Uranium in Karnataka

Bangalore, July 9 (Samachar): Prospecting has shown up uranium reserves in two villages of Chickmagalur district in Karnataka, according to Union Deputy Minister for Steel and Mines Sukhdev Prasad.

Fifty countries attend talks

New Delhi, July 8 (Samachar): Nearly 50 countries have expressed their willingness to take part in the Ministerial-level conference on the non-aligned news agencies pool to be held in New Delhi from July 8 to 13.

The Prime Minister's special envoy, Mohammed Yunus, told a Press conference that India was encouraged by the response received so far for the conference.

He said the conference would discuss arrangements under which the existing news agencies in these countries could exchange news about themselves in a better way than by depending on the world news agencies.

Mr. Yunus said the meet would discuss "many more questions of a political nature".

The conference is being held in pursuance of a decision taken at the non-aligned Foreign Ministers meeting in Lima in August last year.

Concern over uranium supply

Bombay, July 9 (Samachar): The delay in receiving supplies of enriched uranium, a fuel for producing nuclear energy, from the United States under an agreement is causing concern to India, according to J. C. Shah, Chairman of the Atomic Power Authority.

In an interview to Samachar, Mr. Shah said in case minimum supplies of 9 tonnes of enriched uranium were not received by the end of August, the output at Tarapur atomic power station might have to be reduced in order to conserve the stocks of uranium on hand.

The country's annual requirement of enriched uranium is about 20 tonnes. One consignment of three tonnes of enriched uranium was expected to be shipped in December last and the next by April 1976, but objections raised by some influential groups in the USA and consideration of their petitions of the US nuclear regulatory commission against the supply of enriched uranium to India has inordinately delayed the release of the vital raw material, Mr. Shah said.

This delay has occurred despite the helpful attitude of the US Government and the state department. A plea has been made to the nuclear regulatory commission countering the opponents' argument that the supply of enriched uranium to India could jeopardise the security of the USA.

Decline in incidence of TB

Bangalore, July 12 (Samachar): Tuberculosis, believed to be prevalent in India for the last 6000 years as a killer disease, is showing a gradual decline at present, according to Dr. M. D. R. Nagpaul, Director of the National Tuberculosis Institute, here.

This "perceptible decline," established after several scientific epidemiological surveys, was noticable more since the turn of the present century. TB deaths now appeared to form about only five per cent of the total deaths compared to the 17 percent in 1920, Dr. Nagpaul told Samachar.

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CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Several organizations have cropped up in the west allegedly to do charitable work in developing countries such as India. No doubt some of them do good work in India.

However, on balance, are they to be encouraged? On the surface it may appear that they deserve support. On careful consideration of all aspects of their operation, one is inclined to say the opposite.

These charitable organizations raise funds often in the most objectionable manner. Anyone living in the west has seen on their TV screens the poverty of Calcutta and the slums of Bombay shown for fund raising purposes by these charitable organizations. These repeated displays of filth and filth from India convinces any average westerner that India is just that and nothing else.

This influences tremendously the attitude of the West towards India and Indians. It is reflected in India's international relations as well as in Indians' personal relations with people outside India. In other words, the poor treatment India and her citizens receive abroad are very much influenced by this distorted image of the country and its people. As one can figure out, a few dollars received as charity is costing India and Indians very dearly, economically, socially and politically.

A large proportion of the money collected by the so-called charities often goes for "administrative" purposes. For example, OXFAM, one of the most well known among such organizations can provide only thirty cents out of every dollar collected as aid, reports OXFAM's former national chairman Dr. Keenleyside.

In view of all these it would be preferable if Government of India bans the activities of all such do-gooder organizations that beg for money abroad. As we have advocated before it would be preferable to forgo aid of other kinds as well and stress trade in future.

Letters

Indian Airlines: A reply

It was very interesting to hear, particularly so from a person from a western country supporting Indian Airlines. I am glad to hear that Mrs. Routh had a comfortable time in India and I hope that she will keep her present viewpoint intact even after reading this letter.

After being in Canada for the last 14 years I do not consider myself superior to my people in India. I do not wish to see them bottled up by imposed constraints either, just because they are economically poorer than a few rich people in other countries. My intention was to suggest a few proven ideas to the Indian Airlines so that their operation may become efficient, profitable, and passenger - oriented. A host who prepared a lousy dinner for her guest does not deserve a complementary remark. My intentions were good and I hope Indian Airlines (IA) will accept my constructive criticism.

Contrary to Mrs. Routh's assumption, I was not frustrated when I swam through the muddle of mismanagement of I.A., rather, my sense of duty provoked me to point out a few missing facts. Good or bad, my nature is to make suggestions if I know that there is room for improvement. It is, I believe, like giving a road map to a driver in a strange city. Ignoring or trying to forget will never solve these problems. I cannot sit back and relax experiencing a loose connection in my rented T.V.

The success of Mrs. Routh's pleasant trip may mostly be attributed to the following. As opposed to the usual western practice, we, the Indians, treat western people with respect and courtesy. She must have received a piece of our good nature!

We both had entirely different perspectives: she went to India as a visitor, and I was returning home. She accepted what existed there, but I expected a better India than I experienced before. She is a good guest and I am a good host.

Again, to a visitor it is a fascinating experience to watch those local Indians skillfully ploughing through the crowds with their cycle rickshaws and manual rickshaws. To me it is a perturbing scene to watch them pulling the manual rickshaws or pedalling the cycle rickshaws in order to earn a living. What a way to support a family!

Throughout your letter you expressed great sympathy to the "poor country like India." You argued "It is ridiculous to expect a poor country like India to have standards of the west." I believe that efficiency and cleanliness are not the monopoly of the west. So, what is wrong expecting a clean airport? Moreover, for those Indians who built the beautiful Taj Mahal, it is less than peanuts to keep the airport clean. But why don't they do it? Is it ignorance or indifference?

The fact is with respect to brain India is not poor. She's impensley rich. However, haphazard undertakings will cost money and create chaos among tired passengers. One must remember, each passenger has definite plans when he or she makes a visit; some are on business, some are on short leave, yet some are travelling to have a glimpse of their loved ones before they die etc. When a plane takes off the airport officers are relieved because their problem is solved. What about the hundreds of problems created for the passengers by the stupid mistakes made by a few arrogant airline officials? Who is going to compensate the emotional damages and financial and other problems created by the negligence and lack of co-ordination by the airline officials?

Mrs. Routh asked "why would India spent millions of Rupees perfecting its airports for comparatively few passengers?" Does she know the I.A. reservation lists are full backdated to two weeks with waiting lists sometimes to beyond 60 days. And yet some 'favoured passengers' manage to get tickets without reservations! Is it proper to expect a passenger arriving from abroad, travelling thousands of miles in a few hours to spent three or more days to travel a few hundred miles within the country?

I agree with Mrs. Routh, even the super-duper west also having some problems. I also had problems I experienced during my two visits to India. It is not the system. It is the people who interact with the system who create chaos.

Mrs. Routh born in England and found British Airlines (BA) full of problems. I was born in India and I experienced IA, full of problems. She promised "At any rate after our BA experience we shall never travel by them again". But I promised that I will, by all means, travel by I.A. and scold them hard, again and again, until they become efficient.

R. Lutz
Ottawa

Disturbing

Your editorial on July 1, '76 issue is very disturbing. I think people of India should not accept on no account being branded colored. If one is stupid enough not to know who is Indian he should have the courtesy to ask and find out.

If one travels in Europe one will observe how once superior Englishmen in search of jobs are being treated in Norway, Denmark and W. Germany slimy; limy.

If we want to build a nation in Canada, we should respect each others origin and be truly Canadian. Bums, no matter where they come from, should be deported.

A Basu
Montreal

Indo-Pak trade resumes

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Private firms in India and Pakistan will be able to do business with each other from July 15 onwards. Also, an express train will soon start plying between Amritsar and Lahore.

The government announced lifting the ban on private trade imposed during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war. The ban was partially lifted in 1974 on Government-level trade. The new announcement was described as being "in partial modification of the public notification issued on December 7, 1974."

Before the Indo Pak trade came in a halt, Pakistan used to buy coal, metal manufactures, machinery, transport equipment, paper, glassware, rubber goods and tea from India. India's imports from Pakistan mainly comprised cotton, rice, eggs and fresh fruits.

Emergency gives a push to economy

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): The economic upswing of 1975-76 for which the momentum was given by the all-round discipline in the wake of the emergency proclaimed a year ago, holds promise for setting the country on the path of sustained growth after years of stagnation and crisis management.

Having mastered inflation and enforced a regime of price stability the country is taking up threads of long-term development in a more congenial atmosphere than when the fifth five-year Plan (1974-79) began on April 1, 1974.

The tight fiscal and monetary discipline which came into vogue in mid-1974 to beat down inflation, followed by the crack-down on smugglers, tax evaders and hoarders, and the new economic program of the Prime Minister in July 1975 with equal emphasis on growth and social justice brought India to a new threshold of dynamic progress.

The reversal of inflationary trends- the decline in the wholesale and consumer price indices by April - May 1976 begin seven per cent and 12 per cent over the preceeding 12 months has increased the purchasing power of the wage earners and salaried classes. The value of the rupee rose at home and abroad.

EASY AVAILABILITY

The availability of food grains has improved and so has that of a whole range of raw materials for industry. The bulging buffer stocks -currently estimated at 15 million tonnes of foodgrains — and the swollen foreign exchange reserves — Rs. 1,593.46 crores in the first week of June 1976 (excluding gold and SDRs) — constitute a big cushion in the event of unfavourable weather conditions upsetting the rhythm of progress.

Industry has come out of its sluggishness which tended to become chronic, and the growth rate in production has moved up from 2.5 percent in 1974-75 to five percent in 1975-76.

EXPORT MARKETS

Two major traditional industries, cotton textiles and jute, are stil in doldrums. Consumer durables are still to establish a firm recovery trend after the demand recession to which the government responded with excise duty reliefs and other concessions.

Agricultural output is estimated to have recorded an eight per cent growth rate in 1975-76 because of the bumper harvest helped by most favourable weather conditions. Foodgrains production is now estimated at an all-time high of 116 million tonnes the previous best being 108.4 million tonnes in 1970-71.

India's exports, maintaining a consistent growth trend increased to Rs. 3,863 crores in 1975-76, 16 percent rise over the previous year notwithstanding the recession in major industrialized countries, and helped to contain the trade deficit at Rs. 1,155 crores, slightly less than the gap in 1974-75.

While the export figure crossed the target last year and a higher level of Rs. 4,350 crores is set as the goal this year, there has been a welcome drop in imports in the early months of 1976 and this moderated order of trade deficit in 1975-76. But there is no early prospect of large deficits being slashed down and the balance of payments situation, though comfortable at present, is insecure.

A larger net inflow of external resources has financed investments in the economy in the last two years and it is estimated to account for 16.4 percent of the higher plan outlay of Rs 7,852 crores in 1976-77.

Strides of steel industry

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): An official review indicates that the steel industry has recorded substantial gains under the new economic programs.

According to the review, the most important single factor responsible for this is the tremendous response from workers to the scheme for workers participation, which resulted not only in increased production and capacity utilization, but a record reduction in the manhours lost in the steel plants.

Steel production, which was only 4.9 million tonnes in 1974-75, recorded an increase of 8.78 lakh tonnes during 1975-76 with the actual production touching 5.778 million tonnes of saleable steel against the original target of 5.7 million tonnes.

Economic miracle or flash in the pan?

By Prof V. Subramaniam
Carleton University
Ottawa

Indians abroad have been depressed considerably by the reporting on India in the Western press, particularly about restrictions on civil liberties. At the same time, the Western press has been cunningly silent about, or has under-reported, the obvious economic achievements of India during the last year, particularly in the recent weeks and months. Indians in India themselves are in two minds about the actual control of inflation and the fall in the prices of food commodities and clothing. Many of them are completely unaware of the galloping inflation in some Western countries and therefore underrate India's achievement. There are others who find it difficult to believe what has happened. There are still others who wonder whether this economic "miracle" will last.

As a non-economist, I cannot make any professional evaluation or prediction about India's economic recovery which almost seems to be a miracle to many of us who knew the bad days of 1972-74 and the extremely depressing mood of that period. Nor can I say anything reliable as to whether this seeming miracle will last or whether it is a flash in the pan. But Indians abroad in particular ought to know that something has happened and that things are changing right before one's eyes.

PRAISE

As for professional sources, one can quote elaborately from the World Bank's report on the economic achievements of India, last year and now. With due professional caution and English understatement, the Bank has clearly praised the performance of the Indian economy and has urged the Aid-India Consortium to give aid generously. Ernest Stern, Vice President of the South Asian Department of the World Bank, was impressed with India's building up of buffer food stocks of 11 million tons and her export growth of 8percent in volume in a period of world trade recession. Many professional analysts seemed to feel that India can move mountains wit her dogged determination.

Perhaps also for the first time, it has been stated clearly that foreign aid has formed a marginal part in Indian planning and in the Indian economy. Coming as it does after tongue-in-the-cheek misreports in the Western press in 1974 about American food aid to India which India fully paid for in dollars, this is quite reassuring, compared to the usual Western condescension in judging the Indian economy. One is cheered up when one also reads recent news items about China and north Korea squealing shrilly, about Rusian insistence on payment for arms sent over a number of years. India does not come out so badly as a debtor as the Western press made it out to their readers for two decades.

SELF CONFIDENCE

A growth rate of 5.5 to six percent has been claimed by Indian financial authorities and this has been confirmed by World Bank authorities. On a regional basis, Karnataka claims a growth rate of over 6 percent. Forgetting the miraculous growth rates of Japan for some time at 11 percent this is indeed a heartening growth rate. In fact, Finance Minister, C. Subramaniam predicted a rate of over ten for the industrial sector for the next five years. More insignificant than the abstract ovetall growth rate is the concretely demonstrated strength of the Indian rupee. One indicator of this is the fact that several establishments in South East Asia which dealt with Indian currency in the black market have had to close shop. The official and the real exchange value of the rupee seem to be almost exactly equal. Indeed there is a suspicion that the official exchange value vis-a-vis the Pound-Sterling is probably in favour of the latter. The delinking of the Indian rupee from the pound was a belated declaration of Indian self confidence.

There are again the usual indicators of progress on the industrial and financial front. India has been boasting about negative inflation and this claim is to a considerable extent sustained by reports of expert observers. In regard to industry, most heavy industries are working at nearly-full capacity with very few man days lost. The extrovert Chief Minister of Punjab had already begun to boast about Punjab being a little Europe in half a decade with a flourishing electronic industry in addition to other established industries.

As a matter of practical observation one can see that food is plentiful. The monsoons have been very benign, and the target for food production has been exceeded by about 12 million tons. In some States in particular Karnataka (from where I am writing) and Punjab and Haryana, this has been extremely embarrassing in some regards both to the farmers and the State Governments. The State Governments were prepared to pay higher prices than the market prices, but the prices came down so fast that they had to stop their subsidies. Extraordinary caution has been also exercised by both the Centre and State Governments in regard to building up bufferstocks. The enthusiasm probably went a bit too far when suggestions were made at the All-India Congress Committee meeting to make Agriculture a concurrent subject in the constitution. This move was given up, but let us hope that Centre-State cooperation in regard to agriculture and agricultural production will continue. It saved Bihar from the worst effects of famine in 1967. It was certainly responsible for the Green Revolution that followed and the crisis of 1973-74 would have been much worse but for strong Central direction in regard to food and agriculture.

MONSOON

The Achilles heel of India now is not so much the whims and vagaries of the monsoon. This is fully understood and when schemes to connect all India rivers come good one may be able to forget this altogether. One may add that the World Bank has approved a scheme to connect the Ganges and the South Indian reversia scheme so dear to S. Srinivasa Iyengar, once president of the INC). Moreover, the new Governor of Madras Sukhadia confidently asked Madrasis to get ready to receive Krishna water in 1978, some years earlier than expected.

The greater danger is lack of storage facilities and the depradations of rats. At the moment the rat population of India is estimated at 5,000 million, perhaps the largest concentration of rats in any country. One need not waste time on gruesome fancies about a rat-invasion and pied pipers. But the danger to India's already inadequate storage facilities is clear. And rats spoil more grain than they eat, with their urine and excrete, a bitter fact brought home to the authorities through some food poisoning cases in the Punjab.

There are any number of authentic stories about authorities trying to find storage space wherever they can. A few days ago an article reported the enthusiasm of food procurement authorities in Haryana to use several cinema theatres for storing the large excess of wheat. A more interesting story comes from Punjab where schools cannot reopen on time because they are all being used to store bags of wheat. In fact, the enthusiasm for building buffer-stocks has gone so far as to encourage Central Cabinet Minister Jagjivan Ram to lecture to world food authorities of their slackness in building buffer food stocks.

JANATA MEHL

The large supply of food is reflected to a good extent in restaurants and hotels. Quite apart from the natural fall in food prices, State Governments have stepped in to fix the prices of practically all ordinarily consumed items of food in restaurants. This has resulted in some desirable and some not so desirable changes. Restaurant owners do not want to keep open for long hours as their profit margin is probably getting smaller. This has made practically all restaurants crowded almost all hours. At the same time, something which India can rightly boast of, has happened too. A standard meal called Janata meal which actually is a three course vegetarian meal with a limited amount of curries and rice is available for exactly 12 cents. Of course, this meal is not available in all hotels nor is it served in the most desirable part of the hotel. But, when all is said and done, let us face it India is about the only country where one can fill one's belly with a thousand calories worth of tasty food for just 12 cents.

On the technical front, the oil and Natural Gas Commission has done magnificent work ever according to the conservative language of the World Bank. Off-shore drilling nar Bombay has gone on fast and a measure of self sufficiency is expected by 1980. On the nuclear front again, the Canadian Volte-face did not cause even a ripple on the technical side.

A few days ago the anniversary of the delcaration of emergency was celebrated with subdued optimism. Writing about it, some journals pointed out how India has over-shot its targets in several areas. Thus, while world exports have increased on an average by 4 percent India's experts have increased by 16 percent. India's forcign reserves have also increased correspondingly and several inducement have been offered to Indians abroad with capital to invest in Indian industry. And, quite a few Indian businessmen from South East Asia and North America have already taken advantage of the offer. India's foreign exchange reserves have increased fast to over 1700 million and Bank deposits have increased with enormous speed, thus enabling Banks to lend more freely and judiceously.

DARK CLOUDS

Are the prospects all bright or are there any dark clouds in the horizon? There is reason to hope that the present momentum of discipline and progress can push the Indian economy to further heights. Indra Gandhi hit the right note in her interview with Tushar Kanti Ghosh, the editor of A. B. Patrika: "To go back to your question about the next 12 months: We are economically poised for greater development." There are however three visible dangers. One is the special unkindness which the skies have displayed towards India for more than a decade now. Already this year's monsoon is coming late and there are fears of a limited drought. But fortunately crisis management has become an area of expertise to India's administrators, and there is hope that this will not end up in major disasters. The second danger is one of the slackening of social discipline and hard work as the months pass by. There are signs of it here and there and the Prime Minister herself has referred to this recently more than once.

The third danger is perhaps much more serious. To a large extent Indian authorities have outgrown the foreign-aid canvassing mentality and are aware of the risk of relying on it. But the good performance of the Indian economy is beginning to win certificates from foreign and international bodies. These should be regarded as a green signal for India to go on and not as debentures which could be pawned for more foreign aid. India's experience has been extremely bitter in this regard with practically all donor countries shamelessly over-publicising their gifts on front pages and intoxicating even the lowliest tourists from donor countries to expect a red carper welcome when they set foot on Indian soil. This syndrome, including India's own sharp reactions to such expectations is well known to all concerned. But it may not e amiss to retell a favourite theme of Vaishnavite commentators about people who make a very small gift to a temple and expect to share the top seats in Lord Narayana's court with Nityasuris (leading angels). Such men are compared to a monkey which tried to cheat a merchant. When the merchant was exporting a ship-ful of arecanuts, the monkey wanted to contribute half an arecanut to the heap. It jokingly suggested that the merchant give it a receipt. The receipt duly acknowledged this contribution. In Tamil idiom the same phrases means "half an arecanut in the ship", or, "one half of all the arecanuts in the ship." When the profits rolled in the monkey insisted on the second interpretation and claimed half the profits. The lesson of this sorry, let us hope, is not lost on India in regard to foreign aid.

New hopes for oil

By A. J. Singh

Canadian India Times
News Service

According to available indications, North East India appears to be rich in oil wealth. Both the Oil and natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and the Oil India Ltd. are quite enthusiastic about exploring oil in this region, which comprises of the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura.

The General Manager of the ONGC in the Eastern region, C.K.R. Sastri, has said that the location of three oil structures at Chergola, KanchanPur and Masimpore in the Cachar district of Assam, has enhanced the prospects of finding oil in the region. According to him, drilling is scheduled to commence late next year at Chorgola, which is the largest in the District. Civil operations have already commenced in Chorgola. Massive drilling rig has been imported from Rumania. On account of the nature of the terrain, which makes drilling a formidable task, the ONGC proposes to engage specialists from abroad to conduct the Cachar Drilling operation.

Following up the land of reported sources of oil and natural gas, the ONGC has instituted seismic and geo-physical surveys in selected areas of Nagaland. The Commission has also set in motion exploratory drilling for oil in the foothill regions of Mokokchung and Tuensang districts.

Oil India has already struck oil at Kharsang in Arunachal pradesh in well No. 3, at a depth of 3,100 ft.; this puts the state on the oil map of the country.

But A. B. Das Gupta, the managing Director of Oil India, is rather cautious about the find. He feels that more of wells have to be dug in the area to ascertain its commercial viability. His fears are quite justified in view of the fact that drilling in Kharsang 1 and Kharsang 2 had to be abandoned on account of a difficult drilling problem in the case of one and commercially inadequate supply of oil the case of the other.

Gas has been discovered in Tripura, its potential is under evaluation.

It is discovered that Assam has more than a half of the country's indentified oil deposits. This makes it one of the two principal oil-bearing states of the country, the other being Gujarat.

More ore exports

Visakhapatnam, July 12 (samachar): The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation hopes to export 15 million tonnes of iron ore this year.

According to a MMTC spokesman this marks an increase of nearly a third of its last year's exports of iron ore.

The spokesman said June 29 the iron ore exports would fetch about Rs 165 ($220 million.)

Lump iron ores shipment of the "fines" to Iraq would start by September, he added.

Impressions of an overseas Indian

By John Jacob

President,
Singapore Indian Congress

I have just returned from yet another visit to India, greatly impressed by the magnificient changes that have come upon the nation as a result of the strict discipline imosed under the state of Emergency declared on June 26 last year, and the numerous measures subsequently enforced by the Government to end corruption and black-marketing, smuggling and such other anti-national activities. I have also been immensely impressed by the marvellous progress that the country has been making in the economic and social fields as a result of the many constructive programs that are being energetically implemented to improve the well-being of the people. Wherever I went, I saw people hopeful and confident, active and enthusiastic. I didn't notice any sign of despondency or pessimism, which was such a conspicuous feature of the immediate pre-Emergency days.

Travesty of Truth

But the picture projected by the mass media in most foreign countries of the present conditions in India is entirely different. It is a complete distortion of the truth and reality. People abroad are told only of the severity of the restrictive laws under the Emergency — of the arrests and detention, of press censorship and the like — and little or nothing are they told of the good that has resulted from these and other measures. Verily, it is a blatant case of suppressio veri and suggestio falsi, designed to put India in the worst light possible. Obviously, Western nations, which had always portrayed India as a helpless country constantly seeking foreign aid, are now unhappy when they find India becoming increasingly self-reliant and trying to achieve prosperity through her own efforts and with her own resources. I, therefore, feel it my duty, for the sake of truth and justice, to tell people all over the world of the true state of affairs in the country.

To appreciate the contrast, I shall recall the conditions as they were in the months and years before the Emergency. Of course, volumes could be written on this subject, but to make matters simple, let me first of all briefly explain how things looked in the past and as I had seen them myself, and how they eventually resulted in the state of Emergency being proclaimed.

Legacy of the British

As is well-known, there was no revolution in India, either immediately before or after her achievement of Freedom in 1947. India, on the other hand, achieved Independence through the passive and peaceful non-militant struggle launched by the National Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Apostle of Non-Violence. The British took long to see the justice of the Indian cause, but finally they voluntarily reliquished power, and India inherited a government and a civil service as a going concern with all their virtues and vices. Also included in the legacy were an impoverished economy, an underdeveloped industry, and an alien education system, plus feudal estates, class and caste distinctions, internal territorial disputes, and many, many other problems, big and small.

Tolerant Democracy

On the national Congress, as the largest political organisation in the country, fell the responsibility of carrying on the burden. The late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru shouldered it courageously, assisted by several able colleagues most of whom are now ono more. But Nehru and his colleagues, wedded to non-violence as they were in strict obedience to their Master, Mahatma Gandhi, were against the use of drastic methods to bring about reform. They put their 100 percent trust in democracy which as everybody knows is a fertile ground for violent and evil minded forces to operate with impunity, even to the extent of posing themselves as peaceful, national, democratic forces. The result was the emergence of fascist political organisations, cleverly camouflaged under various garbs, such as even religious and spiritual.

Gandhi's Assassination

As every student of modern Indian history knows, it was the forces represented by one of the oldest of such fascist organisations that engineered the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948 — just a few months after the achievement of the country's Freedom. Nevertheless, the Congress Government of India refused to abandon its faith in the efficacy of non-violence, and tolerated all classes and categories of opposition in its strict adherence to the democratic system. However, the fascist forces dared not come into the open or make a bold bid for the seizure of power, either theough violence or the ballot box. Nehru's towering personality was too forbidding for all that. So, the fascist forces lay low and in the meantime, secretly built up their organisations in size and strength, money and resources.

Food perishes, while People starved

When Nehru's health began to deteriorate, anti-national and anti-social elements, whose only aim was to bring about chaos and anarchy, surfaced again. They comprised all sorts of people — political opportunists, unscrupulous businessmen, and such other self-seekers in all fields including, particularly the trade union movement, who had no common aim except to advance their own individual interests at the expense of the nation. As a result, on the political front, agitational propaganda, purposeless parades and demonstrations became the order of the day, while on the labour front, frivolous strikes and lockouts were rampant. I could still remember the tragic incident of dockers refusing to unload much-needed foodstuffs which perished while the people starved. Also rampant were smuggling and black-marketing, bribery and corruption, aided and abetted by the unscrupulous elements. Thus, while a small minority of self-seekers prospered, the vast majority of the rest of the population who by and large were honest and truthful, peaceful and law-abiding, found life hard and miserable, and suffered in silence.

Violence by Extremists

However, Mrs. Gandhi could not do much in the economic and other fields as after Nehru's death the anti-national and anti-social elements had become more aggressive than ever before, and kept up their agitation and demonstration on various fronts, aided and abetted by the conservative and vested interests both within the Congress and outside it. Meanwhile, the extremist elements resorted to violence and terrorism in Eastern India while elsewhere the other equally violent forces represented by pseudo-religious and chauvinistic organisations of an extremely communal and fascist character, which during Nehru's days had lain low, came out into the open, bolder and more aggressive and committed many acts of violence, including the brutal assassination of a Central Cabinet Minister and the attempted murder of the very Chief Justice himself.

Countrywide Uprising Planned

Conditions immediately prior to the imposition of the Emergency were indeed most frightening. They were chaotic, nay, near anarchic, with Opposition elements taking the law into their own hands, and challenging the very authority of the Government. They had fixed June 29, 1975 as the date for countrywide uprising to bring about what they called "Total Revolution." In accordance with this, they had called on the people to boycott law courts and legislatures, refuse to pay taxes and paralyse the work of the Government. They had also asked students to keep away from schools and colleges, and workers to launch a general strike to bring the life of the nation to a standstill. And they proposed to set up "parallel governments" to replace the State and Central administrations. They even went to the extent of calling on the police and the army not to obey the Government but to back their movement instead. Can treason go any higher or any further?

Emergency averts Coup d'etat

Obviously, things had gone too far. They had reached the explosive stage, and a little spark was all that was needed to engulf the entire nation in an inferno. The ordinary laws were totally inadequate to deal with a crisis of this sort. So, the state of Emergency was proclaimed on June 26, and the Opposition's D. Day scheduled for June 29 rightly ended in a Disaster Day for their ambitions to stage a fascist coup d'etat. As Mrs. Gandhi admitted several months later in the Upper House of Parliament, that if she could be accused of anything it should be for not having clamped the Emergency earlier than June 26! She said: "I fully agree that the sort of tolerance I showed was a crime against the nation. I have to make India strong and democracy strong."

Mrs. Gandhi's 20-Point Economic Plan

So, side by side with the Emergency, she also announced a series of economic and social reforms — the 20-Point Plan as it is called — to bring about all round improvement in the state of affairs through drastic remedies for the various ills with which the nation had long been afflicted. Besides locking up all trouble-makers such as political extremists, fascists and other terrorist elements, as well as smugglers, tax-evaders and black marketeers, she also enforced strict discipline in government offices, curbed bribery and corruption, adopted anti-inflationary measures and brought about a substantial reduction in the level of prices of essential articles such as foodstuffs. All these rapidly made living conditions more bearable for the ommon people. Mrs. Gandhi thus proved to the world that the Emergency was being used not just to lock up the undesirable elements but mainly to bring about a substantial improvement in the living conditions of the people.

Far-Resching Reforms

But that was not all. Under the economic and social reforms, Mrs. Gandhi ended the age-old bonded labour system, announced a moratorium on rural indebtedness, and promised a review of minimum wages for rural workers, besides bonus and regular increments for all together with a compulsory savings system and participation in industry. She also introduced a ceiling on landholdings and houses in urban areas, so as to make more land and houses available for the poor and homeless. She also announced a 12-point lans to reduce consumption of alcoholic beverages, leading eventually to total prohibition.

End to "Black Money" Operations

She also gave a "once and for all chance" to all taxdodgers to come clean of face stiff penalties and it is reported that before the deadline expired on New Year's eve, total money unearthed under this voluntary disclosure scheme amounted to as much as US$2,000 million. Through such measures as this, it was hoped to bring an end to the huge "black market" operations in India. Of course, large numbers of notorious "black market" operators, illegal currency manipulators and counterfeiters, tax-evaders and smugglers ac already behind the prison bars, and their ill-gotten wealth entirely confiscated.

People No Longer Despondent

The magnificent changes that have come upon India today as a result of the Emergency and the various economic measures that are being implemented, must be seen to be believed. I saw them for myself during my recent visit there. The most conspicious feature of the changed situation in India today, in my view, is the unprecedented optimism and enthusiasm prevailing among the people. In the past, for a variety of reasons for which they were not responsible, but for which the minority of the anti-national and anti-social elements were certainly to blame, the people were despondent and disheartened, and remained passive and lethargic, resigned to their lot, so to say. But today, they are all hopeful and cheerful, and prepared to do any work, anywhere, to improve their lot. As a result, everywhere in India one finds a lively atmosphere, with people going to wok punctually and working hard.

Public now served well

Throughout the country, in all offices, factories and workshops, work is going on smoothly and briskly. There are no serious wildcat strikes or lockouts. As far as I understand, thee is no asking for, or giving of, bribes. That universal curse is coming to a fast and final end. Everyone is doing one's duty cheerfully, unprodded or uninstigated by anybody but out of one's own free will. People have become well disciplined, and conscious of their role for the collective good. This is particularly discernible in Government offices, among police and other public servants who ae all serving the public politely — in the true sense of the term. Profiteering has largely ended, prices have considerably gone down, thee is little hoarding of goods or selling under-weight or adulterated stuff. Crimes big and small have also become very much reduced. There is no more any ticketless travel in railways; trains are running to schedule. And so on it goes. The improvement is noticeable in every sphere of public activity throughout the country. Today even the most developed countries are facing the prob lem of inflation but India has not only stopped inflation but reversed the trend.

Rupee Black Market Abroad Smashed

Even overseas countries, including particularly Malaysia, Singapore and Hongkong, are enjoying the benefits of the stern measures adopted by Mrs. Gandhi in India. In these countries too the black market in Indian rupees and smuggling of goods to India have been considerably reduced, if not totally eradicated, and the Indian and other banks therein are enjoying a sort of boom in their business of remitting money to India through the official channels, which so long had been handled largely by illegal currency operators. Several of these operators have also been detained or their passports impounded by the Indian Government.

Encouraging Events

Events happening in India since my return to Singapore have only helped to further strengthen my confidence in the ultimate success of the mighty effort launched by Mrs. Gandhi to ensure India's safety, unity and progress. Among those worth mentioning in this respect are the unanimous confidence expressed by the ruling Congress in Mrs. Gandhi's leadership and policies, and the extension of the current state of Emergency and life of the present Parliament as well as the postponement of General Elections, all by at least one year. These will no doubt enable the Government to fully implement the 20-Point Program of Economic and Social Reform already announced by the Government. These not only require sufficient time but the right atmosphere and conditions for their smooth and speedy implementation.

Discipline must be maintained

Latest developments in India show that Mrs. Gandhi is determined that a reversion to the anarchic conditions of the pre-Emergency days shall never occur again. From what I haveseen of India of the pre-Emergency days and now, I have no doubt that continued enforcement of equivalent restrictive measures are absolutely essential to ensure conditions for further progress. It is only while discipline is maintained that economic and social reforms aimed at improving the material and moral well-being of the people could be implemented, and without these reforms India cannot be made truly strong or prosperous.

Film

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by V. Shantar

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Films

PINJARA
Screenplay, direction and editing by V. Shantaram

Never before has a Shantaram movie being so full of holes as this. Even the title of the film is ill-fitting, the parrot cage which the leading lady carries from place to place signifies nothing.

The theme of the film is borrowed from Von Sterberg's **Blue Angel**, the silent German classic starring Emil Jennings and Marlene Dietrich. No acknowledgement is given to the source; merely the story idea is ascribed to one Anant Mane. Has Shantaram too fallen in the same category as Gulzar, F. C. Mehra, Pramod Chakravorty and others who in their Hindi remakes of foreign films do not show the courtesy of mentioning the original. In **Pinjara** the roles which Jennings and Dietrich played are essayed by Shreeram Lagoo and Sandhya, Shantaram's actress-wife.

Even more pertinently, the high point of the story is poorly developed. To recount briefly, the idealist teacher forbids the **nautanki** dancer from dancing in the model village he is trying to create. Insulted, she stages her show on the outskirts and weans the villagers from adult education to adult entertainment. But her target is he; in time he yields to her wiles. Then something goes wrong. There is murder but Shantaram seems inequal to handling the surrounding mystery. The teacher is arrested by the police because his fingerprints match those of the murderer on the dagger. But how could the police have known this? They could not have taken the teacher's fingerprint, much less compared it with another's. Shantaram has clearly slipped up. There are other incongruities as when we are asked to believe that the teacher's clothes fit that huge fellow who tried to murder him; and as when the villagers watching the dance are seen bare chested at one moment and wearing shirts or vests the very next.

Even the nautanki lacks authenticity. What is presented is a hybrid of fun and folk dance. And whatever Sandhya's qualities are as an actress, which are not many, she cannot compare with, say, Padma Khanna who rendered nautanki with pleasing perfection in **Rahgir** and **Geet Gata Chal**, or Waheeda Rahman in **Teesri Kasam**. Sandhya's sensual postures and tinsel coated costumes seem more appropriate to **lavani**.

Finally, Shantaram's direction is flat. He finds it hard to shed the staginess in the sets as well as the outdoors. He is all too prone to sacrifice realism and continuity. It may be wearisome to illustrate.

A tragic ending is rare in Hindi films these days. That way this film breaks the prevailing monotony. Though, one is left to guess for oneself how and why the nautanki dancer is poisoned or gets herself poisoned. Shreeram Lagoo gives a particularly touching performance as the well meaning school teacher-cum-social worker who becomes a jealous lover. The last time we saw him was in **Saamna** (marathi). There he was too theatrical. In **Pinjara** he is artistically subtle; which points to bigger possibilities in his future.

Darshak in Democratic World

CHITCHOR
Directed by Basu Chatterjee
Produced by Tarachand Barjatya

In this film, Barjatya maintains the tradition of quality he built up with earlier creations like **Geet Gata Chal** and **Tapasya**. For his part, director Basu Chatterjee leans more towards sentimental drama than on romantic comedy as in his well-remembered **Chhotti Si Baat**. The story is probably the thinnest of all his five films so far, but he more than makes up for it with his characteristically subdued rendering of human relationships. He does not turn serious as in **Rajnigandha**.

Pictorially, the film does not come off in flying colours. One misses both depth and wideness in the frames. Perhaps because it is the first film in cinema scope for both Chatterjee and the cameraman, K. K. Mahajan, a national award winner more than once. Though the latter catches the sun's reflections and plays on them with good effect, somehow the sylvan settings fail to enchant.

Chatterjee keeps to an uncomplicated narrative style but what he gains in simplicity he loses in terms of humour. The slow pace appears even slower for the lack of the lighter touch in one scene he uses to advantage the technique Ingmar Bergman used in **Wild Strawberries**. While the girl reads her lover's letter, the latter though physically away, is shown pacing up and down in front of her. There are instances of discordant editing with consequent violence to the sense of time.

The film is shot in a lovely hill station where a rustic tomboy is faced with a personal dilema: whether to marry the man she has fallen in love with or to accept her mother's choice of a professionally senior man. Her youthful instincts impel her to revolt against the forced match, despite her rural upbringing. A twist towards the end and things get sorted out in her favour.

Amol Palekar plays the lover but his non-acting style and studied shyness tend to make him a stereotype. Another such role and he is bound to fail. The pleasant surprise, however, is Zarina Wahab who seems to have cast herself in the mould of Jaya Bhaduri in **Uphaar** (a Barjatya film directed by Sudhendu Roy). Vijayandra, the third side of the love triangle has a face like Asrani's and faces the camera with cool confidence. Master Raju whose pranks enlivened Parichay is a bundle of playful mischief. AK Hangal and Deena Pathak, sail through their roles as the girl's parents with customary ease, though Hangal would have looked more natural without his wig.

Chitchor is a romantic musical yet music by Ravindra Jain is its weak point. Palekar could easily have sung without waving his arms as if flailing a harvest. In its totality, the film falls short of expectations, probably because the dialogue and the play of emotions are weak. In **Chhotti Si Baat** Basu Chatterjee had Sharad Joshi, the Hindi humorist and dramatist as his collaborator; in **Chitchor** he is without such support.

KOLLETI KAPURAM
Directed by K.B. Tilak
Produced by Gummadi Srimannarayana and Koripara Krishna Rao

In Telugu cinema, Tilak is known for his commitment to the cause of the peasantry, and to the tiller is more than a slogan to him. He gives a garb of mythology to his characters so they are easily comprehensible to the masses and he gets his message quickly across.

In M.L.A. he pleaded for land reform in Andhra Pradesh; in Bhoomi Kosam he re-created the Telengana peasants' uprising in Kolleti Kapuram, an ambitious film so far as production values are concerned, he goes a step further — with fictional as well as factual help, he pleads for justic for land to the landless and for collective farming.

The film is mounted on a lavish scale; the camera work is of a high order. But amateurism creeps into the performances. And the film makers coat their message with all the glamour and gloss that money can buy, as if they were competing with the Hindi film producers.

Kolleti Kapuram is shot entirely in Kolleru, a vast lake with some seventy islets. In gorgeous documentary style, Tilak mirrors on the screen the natural beauty of these specks of land, the expanse of water, the running reels and the riot of green beside the poverty of the people who live in the midst of these. The realistic effect which the director wants to create is marred by the artificality of the artistes, and his own over-ambitiousness.

Darshak in Democratic World

Olympic squad cleared

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar). A 36-member contingent, consisting of 26 competitors and ten officials, has been cleared to represent India in the Olympic Games at Montreal.

Those taking part will be 16 hockey players, three shooters, two boxers, four athletes and one weightlifter.

The secretary-general of the Indian Olympic Association, Air Vice-Marshal C. L. Mehta, announced that so far as representation in wrestling was concerned, the IOA president, Air Chief Marshal O.P. Mehra "is still continuing his dialogue with the All-India Council of Sports and the Ministry of Education.

In hockey, 16 players plus one manager (WG CDR R.S. Bhola) and one coach (Gurbux Singh) will represent the country.

The three shooters will be Bhim Singh of Kota and Gurbir Singh Sandhu in skeet and Randhir Singh in the trap events. Dr. Karni Singh, of Bikaner, who had qualified, will not be able to make the trip due to "medical reasons."

Machiah and S. K. Rai will fight in the light weight and featherweight, respectively, of the boxing events.

The four athletes to represent the contry are T.C. Yohannan (long jump), Sriram Singh (800 metres), Shivnath Singh (Marathon) and Hari Chand (10,000 metres.)

The sole weightlifter will be Anil Mondal.

Textile mills in trouble

The present crisis through which the Textiles Mills of Ahmedabad are passing, is the worst in the decade.

15 mills out of the 57 in the private sector are heading for net loss at the end of the year. The shortage of working capital is parallel only to a similar scarcity that faced the industry in the sixties.

The cotton textile mills have come in for most buffeting. Due to the crack-down on smuggling, the unfair competition from the glut of foreign fabrics has ceased and consequently, the synthetic textile mills are having some relief from the pressure.

The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has recently opened a regional office at Ahmedabad in Gujarat, which has raised the hopes of the industry. But the IDBI insists on a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs, with the interest charged at 18 percent on individual modernisation loans. In addition, it also insists the recipients' paying the whole interest in advance. This means that a mill gets only Rs. 32 lakhs. As IDBI has rejected the mill industry's proposal that interest ought to be recovered along with the instalments of the principal, although these institutions carry the State Government's guarantees for the loans.

The mills have also suggested a three-year moratorium on these loans, but the IDBI's decision is yet to be given.

The Gujarat Mill's investment in modernization from retained profits and depreciation funds is far ahead of the national trend. Under the circumstances, the Textile industry is at a loss to comprehend the IDBI's present attitude (AJS.)

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Beating the import dilemma

By Joyce Carter

Shoppers with sturdy feet are always complaining that you can walk from shop to shop in Yorkville and see the same merchandise in uptown boutiques.

The store's next sources of imports likely will be India. Jack Alcnach, who used to do promotional work for the Montreal Symphony, and "Div" Divcananda, who was a graphic designer in Montreal, will be the suppliers.

They went to India last year, stayed a year and decided that they would like to find a way of making money here while living there. "It's one thing sitting in India, it's so nice there, but there's no way to make any money," Jack said, back in Toronto where Peter and Damon staged a fashion show at La Continetta this week.

"We'd like to go back to India and start manufacturing clothes. Peter and Damon want their own designs to use in the store and if we can get it together, we'll be able to supply them with enough stuff that they can wholesale it.

"Everything is ridiculously cheap there, the best cotton you can get is $1 a yard and the best silk is $5 a metre. And it's all hand-loomed. A good salary for a tailor is 75 cents a day. Your biggest expense is airfreight but you have to use it other ways have a terrible way of getting lost.

"There are a lot of things to get used to, but I think we're accustomed to them now. You just have to figure that if you have a parcel to mail, that's all you're going to get done that day, it takes that long. And you have to know that if the tailor runs out of red buttons and there's a white one handy, he'll use it. And you have to learn that when somebody tells you he'll deliver something on a given day, he doesn't think he's lying, he's just telling you what he thinks you want to hear.

"You have to learn the tricks, you have to understand that fabrics aren't Sanforized and they aren't colorfast. You have to make sure everything's pre-washed before you cut it. I think the only way you can work it is to be on the spot. And I think we can do it now. With luck, we'll be leaving for India this fall."

The Globe and Mail

DEATHS

Artist

Amritsar, July 13(Samachar) S.G. Thakur Singh, renowned artist who won acclaim for his landscape and portrait paintings, died at his house here at the age of 77.

The founder-president of the Indian Academy of Fine Arts, Mr.Singh had been ailing for a long time. For the last 43 years, he had been living in Amritsar. He is survived by his wife and a son.

Astrologist

Ujjain, June 30 (Samachar): Pandit Suryanarayanji Vyas, noted astrologer and philologist, died here June 22 after a brief illness. He was 74.

A Padma Bhushan awardee and personal friend of India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Vyas was associated with a number of cultural institutions. He was the founder-member of Vikram University.

He had relentlessly tried to popularise the works of Kalidas and was the Acting President of the All-India Kalidas Parishad.

Maternity benefits more flexible

(Canada Scene) — Effective February 1, 1976, new federal legislation was introduced to amend maternity benefits that were thought to be too restrictive.

Prior to the changes, a woman had to apply for benefits 10 weeks before the expected date of birth, if she wanted to collect the maximum 15 weeks' benefit. Following the normal two-week waiting period, this provided for eight weeks of benefit prior to the baby's birth, one week of pay while in hospital, and six weeks after that — total of 15 weeks in benefits.

The new amendments add flexibility to the period of time in which those 15 weeks of benefits can be collected. Today many woman find that they are capable of working up to a few weeks before the birth of their baby. If this is the case, claimants can choose as to when they collect their maternity benefits. If it is decided that the mother-to-be will work longer, it is not necessary for her to apply for benefits 10 weeks before the expected date of birth. The benefit period extends from 10 weeks prior to the birth up to and including 17 weeks after the baby is born. Allowing for the two-week waiting period, this means that application for benefit must be made no later than the first week following the birth in order to be eligible for the maximum maternity benefit. If applications are received later than the first week after the baby's birth, the number of weeks' benefits will decrease accordingly. For example, if a mother applies three weeks after giving birth, she can collect only 13 weeks in benefits.

There are other provisions that determine whether a woman is eligible for the maximum maternity benefit. To qualify for the 15 weeks, she must have the required 20 weeks of insured earnings accumulated within the last 52 weeks, and confirmed by the Record of Employment issued by her employer. She must also have been working or collecting unemployment insurance benefits at the time of conception.

Today, if a woman meets the basic requirements for maternity benefits, she can enjoy both her unemployment insurance benefits and the new addition to her family.

The Blind Persons' Rights Act became law on July 1, 1976.

Here's what the new law says and how Ontario residents can help.

This new Act provides that a blind person accompanied by a dog guide has the same rights, privileges and obligations — with respect to public places — as anyone else. He or she cannot be discriminated against or denied any accommodation, services or facilities available in any place to which the public is customarily admitted.

It is important that dog guide owners know their rights under the Act and that the public, especially employers and their employees, be made aware of the provisions of the Act and their responsibilities under it.

The Attorney General of Ontario will issue identification cards to dog guide owners. The card will carry a photograph of the owner and dog, as well as their names, and will also carry a summary of the main features of the Act.

For further information, application for an Identification Card or a copy of the Act itself, contact:

Office of the General Manager
Ministry of the Attorney General
18 King Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1C5

Ministry of the Attorney General
R. Roy McMurtry, Attorney General

William Davis, Premier

Province of Ontario

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India free from small pox

India will be completing one year of freedom from smallpox on July 5 this year. This year is to be observed all over the country with the theme "vigil to ward off smallpox."

Dr. Karan Singh, Union Minister of health and Family Planning, had described the feat as being no less significant than "the launching of a satellite."

Hailing the achievement, Dr. Halfdan Mahler, Director General of the World health Organization said "India has accomplished the impossible - broken the back of smallpox. It is a historic accomplishment and one of the greatest victories of the entire global smallpox campaign."

Urban land ceiling and Indians abroad

The Union Minister of Works and Housing, H.K.L. Bhagat has clarified the provisions of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act 1976. Mr. Bhagat said that Indians living abroad who held vacant land should submit statements of excess vacant land held by them in Indian urban agglomerations in which the Act is applicable either directly or through their agents to the prescribed authorities before August 14, 1976. In Delhi, for instance, the Deputy Commissioner is the prescribed competent authority for receiving statements of excess vacant land.

He said the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act 1976 is applicable to all the persons who hold vacant land in India irrespective of whether they are Indian or non-Indian resident or non-resident in India.

Mr. Bhagat said it is for the State Governments to exempt any excess land either in public interest or in view of the hardship that may be experienced by the person under the provisions of the Act but it was not possible to grant a general exemption in such cases.

Mr. Bhagat said the Government of India were considering some guidelines for exempting vacant land in excess of the ceiling limit held, and that the terms and conditions under which a person could hold vacant land in excess of the ceiling limit for construction of accommodation for the weaker sections of society were under the Government's consideration.

Academics for emergency

Paunar (Wardha), July 9 (Samachar): A group of academicians has told Acharya Vinoba Bhave that the climate of discipline created by emergency had become necessary to save the education system.

The group, led by Dr. V. P. Dutt, M.P. and Chairman of the National Forum of Teachers, said this climate of peace and discipline should be maintained until its gains have been fully realized and consolidated. Any de-emphasis of this discipline at this stage would be a national catastrophe, they added.

Bengalis stage multicultural program

By Manjula Parakot

The Bengali Cultural Association arranged an entertaining and informative program of Bengali, Estonian and Japanese music and dances to commemorate internationally renowned poet and humanitarian Rabindranath Tagore on June 5, 1976. In keeping with the spirit of multiculturalism and the principles advocated by the Rabindranath Tagore Lectureship Foundation, the show concentrated largely on projecting the East Indian, Estonian and Japanese cultural heritage, thereby exposing many in the audience to refreshingly novel themes.

Celebrities who graced the occasion included Mayor Crombie, MPP Ed Ziemba (NDP), MPP Margaret Campbell (PC) and MPP Charles Caccia (L). After the opening speeches were delivered, the program commenced with a dance item chosen from one of Tagore's 2,500 compositions. Then followed a couple of Tagore's songs. Poet Nazrul's compositions that engulf a larger variety, followed next, with an extremely charming gypsy dance by a child artiste. One of Nazrul's poems is the national anthem of Bangladesh. He was a unifying force between Muslims and Hindus in the earlier part of the 20th century and his centre of interest was the common man and his freedom. Although alive today, the poet has been in a coma for the past two decades, and without doubt the loss of his contributions has been deeply felt in poetic circles.

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre put up a fine presentation of traditional songs and dances of Japan that have been faithfully preserved by the Issei (first generation Japanese) and painstakingly imbibed by the Sansei (third generation). Folk dances like Sakura Ondo (cherry blossom dance), Nippon Uresthiva (Happy to be in Japan), Minyo, Hanagasa Ondo (Umbrella with Flowers dance), a semi classical songs. As compared to Indian dance, there was very little "abhinaya", but the twirling ambrellas, the cherry blossoms and kimonos and the Japanese fans all lent colour and variety.

The surprise item of the evening was the "Koto" (Japanese harp), 7 feet long with 13 strings which is placed on the floor whilst playing. This sentimental instrument came originally from China, but now it is very popular in Japan. Four to six players played alternatively, picking at the strings with patience and precision. Japanese men whilst joining in group dances in Japan appear more inclined towards the traditional "Kheido" (martial arts) and the "Kabuki" (drama wherein men assume female roles.)

A group of young Estonians entertained the audience to a medley of courting and wedding songs and dances from the Fenno-Ugric culture of Estonia. Surprisingly, this culture possesses an almost oriental quality, is very simple in content, and the gay, lively dances set many toes in the audience tapping. Music was provided by the flute and piano accordian, and the mood set by the dances was characteristic of the "Bhangra" of Punjab.

Besides the exchange of culture that evening, a spirit of appreciation and tolerance prevailed throughout the mixed audience. It is perhaps being too optimistic to hope that at this stage, this spirit could be transmitted to the daily walks of life and make living more pleasant and harmonious!!

TAGORE FOUNDATION

At a recent meeting it was decided that for the time being the Rabindranath Tagore Lectureship Foundation should not be incorported. In order to meet the requirements of the Government of Ontario, the Committee decided that the Chairman should contact the Vice Chancellor of the Vishwa Bharati University at Shantiniketan, India, to get a clearance that this Foundation will not make any legal claims to anything in India. Meanwhile, the Founation will continue to be active in arranging cultural exchange programs, lectures, etc.

Avurveda for millions

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, is now being geared up to cater to the health needs of the millions living in the remote rural areas, beyond the reach of modern medicine.

The government plans to set up national institutes for Unani, Siddha and Nature-Cure, a Central Pharmacy, an Ayurvedic hospital in Delhi and a research centre in Ladakh.

coal exports

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): India has become the first developing country to export coal to an European country. Indian M.V. Aradhana sailed from Paradeep port for Belgium with a cargo of 16,075 tonnes of coal.

Janak Madan
293-5000

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Inder Jandoo
293-1578

Kitchen Korner

By Pramati Sengupta

Drinks are always welcome. Especially in the hot weather, it is more a necessity. Indian drinks - especially the home-made fruit juice type - is delicious, easily digestible and wholesome. Liquid refreshment requires no such ingenuity but will cool you off in summer. The popular drinks in India are Nim-boo-Pani, (lemonade), Orange Squash, Rasam, Mango Sherbat, Jeera Pani; and who can forget the taste of cool, creamy and delicious lassi? In India yogurt beverages are not a new idea. They're refreshing and make a good light snack. But the most delicious and pure drink is Neera (juice of a green coconut). Here are my favorite yogurt recipes.

LASSI

2 cups plain yogurt
4½ cups cold water
½ cup sugar or to taste
Dash of salt
Ice cubes

With a rotary beater, beat the yogurt and the sugar well. Now add 2 cups water and beat again until a froth forms. Add remaining water, salt and mix well. Add ice cubes in the tall glasses and pour the cool, creamy lassi.

MANGO COOLERS

2 medium fresh mango (ripe) or use canned mango, chopped
1 cup plain cold yogurt
1 cup skim milk
Sugar to taste
Pinch of salt

Chop enough mango to get measure of 1 to 1¼ cups. Chill mango, puree in a blender or force through sieve. Combine with yogurt, milk and sugar. Blend until smooth. Pour over ice. Makes 2 servings.

Sun-charged battery

Canadian India Times News Service

Dr. Joseph Merrigan of MIT, Pune (Maharashtra), has invented a storage cell which can be charged from the sun and can store a quarter watt of electricity after two hours of exposure to sunlight.

The cell is claimed to be the first of its kind in the world. If it lives up to its expectations, it would go a great way towards solving one of the world's major energy problems.

The cell works on the free convertibility of Potassium Iodide to Iodine and back in the presence of a catalysis, with storing and release of energy in the process.

The crude prototype involved an expenditure of Rs. 150 for the inventor. Commerical production can bring about a drastic cut in the cost. But its potential for large-scale storage is yet to be determined.

The idea of direct conversion of solar energy to electrical one is very attractive, especially so in these days of diminishing coal deposits and high prices of oil. But photovoltaic devices are very costly. If direct conversion is to be made possible, then the production costs of about Rs. 17,000 per square meter have to be brought down to Rs. 40. Also the operational efficiency of these converting devices has to be increased.

But the inventor, Dr. Merrigan is optimistic about both the aspects.

Industrial relations improve

The Government's firm control and initiative in regulating industrial relations in conformity with the new order of priorities is paying dividends.

The loss caused to the nation in the form of mandays and financial, by strikes and lock-outs, has gone through a dramatic fall from 40.3 million mandays in 1974 to 17.9 million days in 1975. The position in the first quarter of 1976 is reported to be still better.

The Amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act passed early '76, makes it obligatory for the employers to give advance notice of intended lay-offs, retrenchments and closures, along with their reasons for such a step. This enables the Govt. to examine the cases on individual merit and extend necessary help to affected units and industries to ward off the lay-offs and retrenchments, in the interests of the labour and the employers as well as the national economy.

This atmosphere of industrial peace has greatly helped in increasing the production and the productivity both in the public and the private sectors. (AIS)

UGANDA TO GET AID FOR SMALL, MEDIUM INDUSTRIES

New Delhi, July 13 (Samachar): India will extend co-operation to the government of Uganda for setting up small and medium scale industries.

A delegation of Indian experts will visit Uganda for this purpose and make specific recommendations.

Study of "Canadian experience" planned

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association is concerned about immigrants who run into discrimination when they try to find work in Canada. The discrimination is not open but cloked behind a requirement that job applicants have "Canadian experience." To help investigate complaints by minority groups about the way they are treated by both private and government agencies when they seek work, The Atkinson Charitable Foundation has awarded $27,000 to the association. The Foundation was created in 1948 following the death of Joseph E. Atkinson, publisher of the Toronto Star. The wealth he amassed as principal owner went into the Foundation and since then $20 million has been given to 2,227 charitable agencies.

The Canada Council has distributed 120,000 books in its fourth annual book purchase and distribution program. This program aims to make the works of Canadian writers available to a wider readership in Canada and abroad. Canadian organizations such as libraries in rural communities, community groups, senior citizens' clubs, hospitals, prisons, drop-in centres, primary schools in remote areas, and high school libraries serving their communities may apply for a free book "kit." Other kits are distributed abroad through the Department of External Affairs. Recipients in Canada are selected by a NATIONAL competition closing January 31, which this year attracted more than 700 applications. The deadline for the next competition is January 31, 1977. Application forms will be available in September.

New arrivals

Downsview, Ont.
UTTANGI P.M.
Tool and Die maker.

Guelph, Ont
HERCHAARAN SINGH

Halifax, N.S.
MRS. RAKSHA R. GANDHI
A. HOQUE

Montreal, Que
R. VERMA

Stratford, Ont.
SATINDER PAUL SINGH
Farmer

Surrey, B.C.
TILOK S. GREWAL
Professor

Winnipeg, Manitoba
S. SANAN

K. S. SIHOTA
Machinist

Los Angeles, U.S.A.
M. SOHAL M.D.
Physician

Rolla, U.S.A.
D. M. S BRATIA
Geochemist

Multicultural symposium

Canada-Pakistan Association of Ottawa, with the help of a $10,000 grant from the Ministry of Multiculturalism in Ottawa, is holding a symposium on preserving Pakistani cultural heritage in multicultural Canada on July 30th and 31st at the University of Ottawa. Among the participants will be Hon. Lloyd Francis M.P., Dr. H. Palmer of University of Calgary, Dr. F. Rehman of University of Chicago, Dr. C.G. Jachen of University of Ottawa and Dr. K.B. Saveed of Queen's. All are welcome. For further information contact S. Akhtar of Canada-Pakistan Association at 820-6500.

They were elected

The new executive council of V.H.P., Burnaby.

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THE CANADIAN IN

A visit

By Jean Al

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Minister Indira
radiates enthusiasm

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A visit with Indira Gandhi

By Jean Ahlvik

Dipti Sarkar, Willowdale, is an expressive woman and when she talks about her recent visit to India and meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, she radiates enthusiasm.

Mrs. Sarkar, who is an expert in Indian classical dance and religion, gave many performances, lectures and interviews during her three-month sojourn in India, but undoubtedly the highlight of her tour was the half hour she and her family spent with Mrs. Gandhi, considered by many to be the most powerful woman in the world.

The audience took place at Mrs. Gandhi's residence early one Sunday morning, a day when crowds of admirers gather at the official residence to catch a glimpse of the woman they call "Mother of India."

This was not Mrs. Sarkar's first meeting with the controversial politician, whose declaration of national emergency in Ida in 1975 has caused so much comment in the international press.

She met Gandhi initially when Dipti's father was attorney general in the cabinet of Mrs. Gandhi's father, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and they met subsequently in the early '60s when Dipti was a student leader and Mrs. Gandhi an aspiring politician.

On this occasion the Sarkars found Mrs. Gandhi obviously careworn but calm and gracious and with enough of the common touch that she charmed even 4-year-old Urmila.

But it was not only Mrs. Gandhi's personal charisma that impressed Mrs. Sarkar. She was delighted by the changes she saw in India.

She had been back to India twice since immigrating to Canada in 1965 and had watched with dismay what she felt was the disintegration of discipline in her homeland.

Strikes, riots and political violence were eroding the people's confidence in the future of India, she felt, and consequently their desire to work for the country's future was ebbing away.

"There was a general attitude of slackness," said Dipti. "You couldn't reach anyone by telephone; no one was where he was supposed to be."

During this visit, although there are still inefficiencies and abuses, she found a marked improvement in the way India is thriving.

"There were no more interminable waits for public transportation; people answereed their telephones, went to work at 9 a.m. and returned at 5 p.m. The threat of street robberies and assorted violent acts seemed to have disappeared, so that women were again comfortable on the streets in the evening.

"The difference is that people now feel they can work hard and fulfil their ambitions," said Dipti.

For many India-watchers, what is happening on the subcontinent is a national tragedy of political imprisonment and repression. But Dipti's interest was in the dramatic way the lives of the common people were improving rather than the Byzantine political mysteries which she admitted she could not penetrate.

One of the major planks in Mrs. Gandhi's emergency program and one which is often criticized outside India is the nationalization of the banks. But Dipti's focus was the poor farmers for whom the bank nationalization means the end of money lenders' damaging interest rates, which the farmers often had to accept in drought times just to keep their families alive. Loans then, for tractors and other scientific farming aids are now available for the first time as India moves toward self-sufficiency in food.

And everywhere Dipti found the common people praising Mrs. Gandhi although she found many rich people and black marketeers obviously disgruntled or afraid. (Another move is to force properties out of the hands of rich people who have acquired them improperly or are not using them adequately.)

Another interesting change Dipti noted was in the position of women. It is paradoxical that in a country which for one third of its history has been led by the woman, women have, by our standards, a very sheltered existence. Marriages are still arranged and the culture has considered it unthinkable for women to work outside the home, thinking that North American working women have selfishly chosen to put their own career goals ahead of family interests.

However, on this visit, Dipti found many women occupying positions of importance and combining their careers with a family life.

Dipti feels women's work is very important in India, as there can be little progress in the huge country of 600 million unless the female half of the population works alongside the male half.

The Mirror

Racial differences have no effect on growth

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): Indian scientists have exploded a popular myth that there may be racial differences in the genetic potential for growth in children.

A cross-sectional study of the height and weight of healthy children attending public schools in different parts of the country has shown that "the genetic potential for growth of Indian children is similar to that of children in western countries."

The study, conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition at Hyderabad, showed that the height and weight of these children from well-to-do sections were considerably higher than those of children belonging to the low-income groups and "essentially similar to those seen in well-nourished American children."

T.N. university

The Tamil Nadu Government is setting up a University of Science and Technology in Madras city. The Engineering College in Guindy and some technological institutions around it will form the nucleus of the new university.

Awards for Indian films

India bagged three prizes in the Twenty-second Asian Film Festival held in South Korea recently. The Bengali feature film "Harmonium" received the award for excellent music. Somali Gupta received the Golden Crown award for excellent acting in that film.

Fellowship awarded

Calcutta, July 9 (Samachar): Noted Indian museologist A. K. Bhattacharya has been awarded a national fellowship by Japan to study Buddhist iconography and museology. The fellowship is of the highest order Japan awards to foreign scholars. Dr. Bhattacharya is an elected fellow of the Museum Association of England.

Students benefit

The scheme for the supply of essential commodities to students now covers about three thousand university or college hostels benefiting more than 154,000 students. This means that nearly half of the student population in the hostels has been covered by the scheme in less than a year as the total number of students staying in hostels and approved lodging houses is estimated at 500,000.

OBITUARY

Miss Sudesh Ummat, 42, of Ottawa, reportedly committed suicide on June 27 and the body was cremated at Pineeres cemetery on June 30th. Miss Ummat who had an M.A. in Economics from India worked in U.K. as well as in several government departments in Ottawa. She is survived by her mother, three sisters and two brothers, one in Toronto, a businessman and another in Kulalampur, a Dean at the university.

Visiting Indian scholars in Canada

The following are visiting Canada in 1975-76.

VISHWAMITTAR, Dr.
NAIN, Dr. V.P.
RAO, V.R.
SINGHAL, Dr. C.
RAO, D.R.K.
PUTHIADAM, Ignatius
BHAKOO, Dr. O.N.
SHAH, Dr. S.M.
MISHRA, Dr. M.N.
VERMA, Dr. S.
NARASHIMHAIAH, C.D.
TRIVEDI, M.K.
SAHASRABUDDHE, H.V.
ROY, K.K.
PURUSHOTHAMA, K.
GUPTA, K.C.
SUNDARESHAN, Dr. M.K.
SASTRY, V.A.
CHANDRASEKHAR, P.
DAS, Dr. S.K.
JAGOTA, Anil
SAGAR, B.
SHAH, Dr. S.M.
SINGH, Prem Paul
ARO, Dr. G.M.
MUNIYAMMA, Dr. M.
DATTAGUPTA, S.

High infant mortality in Calcutta slums

Calcutta, July 9 (Samachar): Three out of 16 babies born in Calcutta's slum areas do not survive; raising the infant mortality rate to as high as 177 per 1,000 births.

This has been revealed by a pilot survey conducted by the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority in some slum and residential areas.

According to the survey, while all mothers in residential areas received antenatal care, 44 percent of mothers in pustee areas did not have such facilities.

Scholarship for De Mello

Vancouver, B.C.: The Shawnigan Summer School of the Arts which was created six years ago as part of the B.C. Centennial celebration, has just announced that a scholarship has been given to a musician from India, Adrian De mello, living in Bombay. Effectively, a special donation had been given to the Shawnigan Summer School of the Arts for the purpose of providing a full scholarship including travelling expenses to a worthy musician from the Third World.

The winner of this scholarship is a licentiate of the Royal School of Music in London as well as of the Trinity School of Music. Mr. De mello studied with Mehli Metha now living in Los Angeles, father of the worldrenown conductor Zubin Metha. Mr. De Mello represented India in the World Symphony Orchestra Festival held in October, 1971, in New York, Florida, and Washington under the baton of Arthur Fiedler.

This renown Indian violinist is also concert master and soloist of several orchestras in Bombay.

The Shawnigan Summer School of the Arts was created in 1971 for the purpose of offering master classes by world-renown soloists such as violinist Ruggiero Ricci to advanced students wishing to enter a career of music as well as professional musicians or teachers wishing to advance in their careers such as in the case of Adrian De Mello.

Indo-Bangla accord soon

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): An Indian delegation, led by G. Parthasarathy, returned from Dacca after four days of talks described as "extremely useful in understanding each other's point of views."

Mr. parthasarathy, Chairman of the Policy Planning Commission of the External Affairs Ministry, told reporters at Delhi airport, both sides expressed their desire to maintain and develop friendly relations as between two close neighbours.

Cancer centres

New Delhi, July 9 (Samachar): The government plans to set up four regional cancer centres and 20 cobalt therapy units in the fifth plan in accordance with the recommendations of the Cancer Assessment Committee. The cancer centres will be located in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay.

Crop production in dry land

New Delhi, July 12 (Samachar): Agricultural scientists here have found a method for increasing crop production in dryland.

The method consists in spraying on the crop foliage a chemical called "kaolinite," a very cheap white powder available in market.

The "kaolinite" coating reflects some of the sunlight, lowers the heat load on the leaf and thereby reduces the water demand for the crop.

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Suitable match for a sweet, college-educated immigrant Punjabi Ramgarhia Sikh girl, 22. Box 1078, The Canadian India times.

Matrimonial correspondence invited from well qualified Hindu bachelors for a good looking Saraswat Brahmin girl, 26, 5'6" tall, holding a decent job, interested parties may please phone (416) 421-6626 for further details.

Well established, U.K. and U.S.A. trained, handsome, bachelor, Indian Physician in U.S.A. Seeks correspondence from professional, accomplished girls, age below 30 years, height above 5' 5" fair, slim, beautiful, smart and western educated preferred. Full details first instance with recent returnable photo a must. Box 1087, The Canadian India Times.

Highly presentable Punjabi Brahmin, male, 47, divorced, 5'-3", full professor with tenure in a Michigan suburban college, would like to remarry. No bars. Send returnable photo, particulars to 1088, The Canadian India Times.

Match wanted for our handsome 23 year old son Jat Sikh, Canadian born attending university. Girl must be of good character, sweet nature good homemaker - fair complexion pretty and interested in music and sports. Photo and details a must. Write to Box 1095, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted: An educated, Hindu bachelor for a 24 year old, pretty, Sindhi girl, 5' 1" ht., 105 lbs. wt., completing a master's degree in audiology by August 1976, Box 1094, The Canadian India Times.

Correspondence invited with returnable photograph from beautiful well educated Gujarati girls between 20-26 from Canada, USA or India for a well employed handsome Gujarati bachelor, M.S. in Eng., 29, Box 1093, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted a suitable match between 30 to 34 for a very beautiful, fair, tall, slim, B.A. B.Ed. Punjabi Khatri girl, permanent resident of U.S.A. Box 1092, The Canadian India Times.

26 year old 5'7½", MBBS Hindu gentleman looking for a suitable match. Caste no bar. Please reply to U. Kumar, 340 Lakeshore Drive, Apt. 409, North Bay, Ontario. Phone (705) 474-9839 Please send photo, if possible.

Wanted a match for a tall, slim, attractive, convent- educated B.A. (Hon.) girl, 21 years old and belonging to a very respectable Jat Sikh family. Father a retired colonel from the army. Currently visiting Canada. Please apply to Mr. R. Singh, 855 Pembridge Cres., Kingston, Ont. (613-389-7645.

Suitable match for a well settled Punjabi Hindu Mair Rajput boy, 30 years, M. Sc. 5'-10". Please write giving complete particulars and photo to P. O. Box No. 339, Stn. B, Toronto, Ont.

Wanted a suitable match for a jat Sikh, 5'7", B. Ed. (Canada) home loving beautiful girl. Recent photo must. Reply Box 1091, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted respectable family well settled Indian professional or businessman, preferably Christian but no bar, for highly western educated well settled, permanant resident, slim, smart, talented, respectable family Andhra Christian girl 26 years. Early marriage. Reply with full particulars and returnable photo to Box 1090, The Canadian India Times.

Matrimonial correspondence invited from well-educated, Hindu gentlemen in early 40's for a slim, smart, good-looking, postgraduate talented Gujarati girl. Permanent resident Canada. Write with details phone no. returnable photo, Box 1097, The Canadian India Times.

Simple, beautiful girl required for Indian shy boy, 25, 5'-10", 185 lbs, independently living in England with British citizenship, father, brother in Canada. Box 1096 The Canadian India Times.

Gujarati Brahmin boy 24, 5'7" good character and gentle nature invites matrimonial correspondences. Caste no bar. Write with exchangeable photograph to, 279K Windermere Road, London, Ontario, N6G 2J7.

Indian family in United States seeks Kerala Ayer boy for their daughter, who is attractive slim, 5'4", age 25 and is a Medical Technology graduate. The boy should preferably have either a U.S. or Canadian permanent residency and be well employed. Interested parties may contact: Dr. Radha P. Krishnan, 1721 Mews Drive, Kansas City, Missouri-64131, U.S.A.

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MARIA BHATNAGAR — Heartiest Congratulations on your 21st birthday from Prem, Angelc, relatives and friends from India, Canada, and Italy.

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Fresh gold deposits

Bangalore, July 9 (Samachar): Fresh gold deposits have been found near the Kolar gold fields (KGF) in Karnataka.

These deposit could mean a fresh lease of life for the 90-year-old KGF mines in Karnataka

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